

I wanted to make you aware of a recent decision by the Veterans Affairs' Oakland Regional Office to stop processing Notice of Disagreements (NODs) and to only process new claims due to personnel shortages. As you probably know, veterans submit NODs if they believe their initial disability rating was erroneous. Indefinitely postponing review of NODs—which already takes six to twelve months to complete—will cause significant hardship to Northern California veterans who should be receiving additional disability compensation. I believe this is unacceptable and have [contacted](#) the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to voice my concerns and to urge him to promptly review the regional office's decision. I will continue to closely monitor this matter to ensure that the VA provides local veterans with the care and attention they deserve.